

February 21, 2004

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



ATTN: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

In response to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, we are submitting the following to be considered in the formal scoping process.

We believe Vulcan's proposed quarry and proposed SGR rail line, regardless of where the railroad is constructed, are connected actions and should be studied in the same Environmental Impact Statement.

We live on property which has been in our family since 1881. Our home was built in 1910. The proposed quarry and proposed railroad are approximately six tenths of a mile from our house. We will have to cross the rail line to get to town. With four one hundred car trains a day, it is no telling how long we may be delayed. If we should need fire protection or emergency medical services, we may as well forget about saving our home or our lives.

We also own property two to two and a half miles north of the proposed quarry site. To access this property, we will have to cross the rail line again at another point. We have a water well on each site, they are old and only partially cased. It is of great concern what the blasting will do to these wells, our only source of water.

We are concerned about what the dust from the proposed quarry and the uncovered railroad cars carrying the limestone will do to our health.

Flooding is another big concern. We have some sixty plus historic sites in this area. To build a railroad on any of the proposed routes would cause flooding to many of these sites. Also, there is a great need for a grade separation crossing in some areas, which seems to be of no concern to Vulcan. The crossing at FM 2676 is heavily traveled.

Last, but by no means least, the proposed quarry site is directly over the Edward's Underground Reservoir Recharge Zone—approximately two hundred feet from the surface to the water.

We sincerely hope our concerns will be taken into consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe H. Balzen

Erna Balzen

Joe H. Balzen

Erna Balzen

CC: Henry Bonilla, U.S. Congressman

John Cornyn, U. S. Senator

Frank Madla, Texas Senator

Timoteo Garza, Texas Representative

Jim Barden, Judge, Medina County

Royce Hartman, Medina County Commissioner